

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SATORI, LLC,

Plaintiff,

**1:10-cv-579
(GLS/RFT)**

v.

PRODEMA, LLS,

Defendant.

APPEARANCES:

OF COUNSEL:

FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

Office of Bridget E. Butler
12 Desbrosses Street
New York, NY 10013

BRIDGET E. BUTLER, ESQ.

FOR THE DEFENDANT:

Law Offices of Joshua L. Dratel, PC
2 Wall Street
3rd Floor
New York, NY 10005

JOSHUA L. DRATEL, ESQ.

**Gary L. Sharpe
District Court Judge**

MEMORANDUM-DECISION AND ORDER

I. Introduction

Plaintiff Satori, LLC (“Satori”) commenced this action against defendants Prodema, LLS (“Prodema”) and Caversham, LLC (“Caversham”), seeking enforcement of a foreign money judgment granted

by the Arbitrazh Court of the City of Moscow, pursuant to Article 53 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules. (See Compl. ¶ 3, Dkt. No. 1.) On September 22, 2011 the court issued a memorandum-decision and order granting Caversham's motion to dismiss and terminating it as a party. (See Dkt. No. 58.) In so doing, the court reserved judgment on Prodema's motion to dismiss and invited Satori and Prodema to submit supplemental briefings on the issue of venue. (See *id.* at 8.)

Both parties accepted the court's invitation and filed their briefs on September 29, 2011. (See Dkt. Nos. 59, 60). In addition to its brief, Satori also filed a motion to supplement its pleadings through jurisdictional discovery. (See Dkt. No. 60.) For the reasons that follow, Prodema's motion to dismiss is granted, and Satori's motion to supplement is denied.

II. Background

For a complete discussion of the facts underlying this dispute, the court refers the parties to its memorandum-decision and order of September 22, 2011. (See Dkt. No. 58 at 2-4.)

III. Standard of Review

The standard of review under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 is well established and will not be repeated here. For a full discussion of the standard, the

court refers the parties to its decision in *Ellis v. Cohen & Slamowitz, LLP*, 701 F. Supp. 2d 215, 218 (N.D.N.Y. 2010).

IV. Discussion

In light of the dismissal of Caversham from this action, the court noted that venue in the Northern District of New York may no longer be proper. (See Dkt. No. 58 at 8.) Instead of dismissing on this ground *sua sponte*, the court opted to provide the parties with notice and an opportunity to be heard on the issue of venue. (*Id.*) Accordingly, Prodema now avers that the Northern District of New York is an improper venue.¹ (See Dkt. 59 at 4.) The court agrees.

Under the general venue statute for diversity actions, venue is only proper:

[I]n (1) a judicial district where any defendant resides, if all defendants reside in the same State, (2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated, or (3) a judicial district in which any defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction at the time the action is commenced, if there is no district in which the

¹ Satori's argument that Prodema's failure to raise venue in its earlier filings constitutes a waiver of that defense is unavailing. (See Dkt. No. 60 at 1.) Under Rule 12(b), a motion for, *inter alia*, improper venue, must only be made before a responsive pleading. Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b). Moreover, a defense is not waived if it is joined "with one or more other defenses . . . in a motion." *Id.* Because Prodema has not filed an Answer, it did not waive the defense of improper venue.

action may otherwise be brought.

28 U.S.C. § 1391(a). Here, it is undisputed that the Northern District of New York is neither Prodema's residence, nor "a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated."

Id. Furthermore, the fact that Prodema is a corporate citizen of Wyoming demonstrates that another district exists in which this action may be brought.² Accordingly, Prodema's motion to dismiss for improper venue is granted and all claims against it are dismissed.

V. Conclusion

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, it is hereby

ORDERED that Prodema's motion to dismiss (Dkt. No. 16) is

GRANTED and all claims against Prodema are **DISMISSED**; and it is further

ORDERED that Satori's motion to supplement its pleadings through

² To avoid dismissal, Satori alleges—for the first time—that Prodema maintains a bank account at "Citibank, New York, New York," and made payments to Satori from that account. (See Dkt. No. 60 at 6.) While these allegations may support venue in the Southern District of New York, they are irrelevant in determining whether the Northern District of New York is an appropriate venue. Moreover, Satori's claim that there is "likely" evidence that Prodema conducted "business activity" in the Northern District of New York is insufficient to warrant jurisdictional discovery. As such, Satori's motion is denied. (See Dkt. No. 60.)

jurisdictional discovery (Dkt. No. 60) is **DENIED**; and it is further

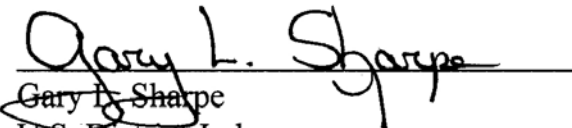
ORDERED that the Clerk close this case; and it is further

ORDERED that the Clerk provide a copy of this Memorandum-

Decision and Order to the parties.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

September 30, 2011
Albany, New York



Gary L. Sharpe
U.S. District Judge